

Labor Force Statistics

The links below contain the official 2010 annual average data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics, Division of Local Area Unemployment Statistics, to be used for the competitive grant competition for Section 3 Coordinators. Use the following for your application: the Civilian Labor Force (column C) and the Unemployment rate (column F) from the appropriate data set described below.

[County Labor Force Statistics](#) contains data for 3,219 county and equivalent areas¹.

[City Labor Force Statistics](#) contains the data for 1,657 cities with populations greater than or equal to 25,000.

For applications covering multiple areas, use one of the following data sets or the sum of the respective individual area civilian labor force data (above) and a weighted average of the unemployment rate. For definitions of the following geographical designations, please refer to [OMB Bulletin 10-02](#).

[Micro Area Labor Force Statistics](#) contains data for 590 [micropolitan](#) statistical areas.

[Metro Area Labor Force Statistics](#) contains data for 380 metropolitan statistical areas.

[Metro Division Labor Force Statistics](#) contains data for 34 metropolitan statistical divisions.

Weighted Average

Weighted Average differs from a regular average because calculation of the average is affected by volume, in this case, civilian population. A weighted average is an average in which each quantity to be averaged is assigned a weight. These weightings determine the relative importance of each quantity on the average.

Example:

	Civilian <u>Labor Force</u>	Unemployment <u>Rate</u>	<u>Product</u>
County A	374,696	10.4	3,896,838
City 1	34,935	9.7	338,870
City 2	<u>28,121</u>	11.0	<u>309,331</u>
Total	437,752		4,545,039

To calculate a weighted average:

1. Multiply each unemployment rate by its associated civilian labor force (product).
2. Add up the products of value multiplied by weight to get the total product (sum = 4,545,039)
3. Add the civilian labor force values to get the total civilian labor force. (Sum = 437,752)
4. Divide the total product by the total civilian labor force. (4,545,039/437,752 = 10.4)

Weighted Average unemployment rate = 10.4.

¹ BLS uses the New England City and Town Area (NECTA) definitions for metropolitan areas, micropolitan areas, and metropolitan divisions in the six New England states. As the name suggests, those areas are composed of cities and towns, rather than counties (as is the case in the rest of the states). Users looking for the definitions for those areas in New England should refer to [List 7 in the OMB bulletin](#).